

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), codified at 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for the use of funding under the Paul Coverdell FY 2004 National Forensic Science Improvement Act for the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences. This project is subject to NEPA review because it is being funded, in part, with federal funding available from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), U.S. Department of Justice.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences would replace aging Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) instrumentation with more current technology and purchase operating reagents and supplies to assist in reducing the casework backlog. These activities would occur in two toxicology laboratories, one in Mobile, Alabama and one in Birmingham, Alabama. These actions would provide the technology to allow for a broader range of drugs to be detected, resulting in a more productive and efficient toxicology analysis. This funding would also be used to outsource some of the toxicology casework backlog to a private vendor laboratory, National Medical Services, located in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

Project Location

The proposed project would be located at two Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences laboratories in Mobile, Alabama and Birmingham, Alabama. Outsourcing activities would occur at the National Medical Services laboratory in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

Findings

The U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice has determined that the implementation of the Proposed Action under the Paul Coverdell FY 2004 National Forensic Science Improvement Act would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Less than significant impacts will occur from the use of chemicals from this project. Therefore, it has been determined that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and that it is not expected that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for this proposal.

Public Comments

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the Environmental Assessment from, or may submit written comments relating to this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the following address:
(Insert name and address of contact person, and, if applicable, a list of the locations where the draft assessment and FONSI are available for review.)

No administrative action will be taken on the project before _____, which is 30 calendar days after the public notice of this Draft FONSI. *(Insert in the line above, the expiration date for the receipt of comments, which must be at least 30 days after the second publication date of the notice.)*